



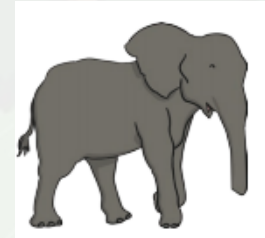
Animal Habitats

Minibeasts

and Their Microhabitats

twinkl

Recap: 1.) Which of the following animals have a backbone?



vertebrate

2.) What do we can an animal without a backbone?



WALT: Identify minibeasts and animal habitats.

What is a mini beast?

Mini beasts are **invertebrates** – they are creatures without backbones. So that includes insects, spiders, beetles, snails, worms, centipedes... the list goes on. In fact, there are about **25,000** different types of invertebrate living in the UK, and around 20,000 of these are types of insect.



Where do minibeasts live?

Different minibeasts like to live in different places – under logs and stones, in leaf piles, in ponds, in trees, bushes and grass, or in the soil. You're probably even sharing your house with some minibeasts, such as spiders.





Many different minibeasts live in many different microhabitats.

They are suited to live in that microhabitat because they can find the food, water and shelter they need.

Minibeasts help to keep the microhabitat healthy.

Let's learn more about the minibeasts we
can find in the UK



Caterpillar

Caterpillars like to live on top and underneath **leaves**.

This is so they can use their camouflage and blend into the leaf.

This helps **protect** them so they cannot be seen by predators.

The caterpillars can then also catch what they want to eat.

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Ant

Ants mostly live **underground**.
They live in big families.

There are lots of insects to eat
underground.

Ants don't have ears. Ants
“hear” by feeling vibrations in
the ground through their feet.



Worm

Worms like to live anywhere there is **soil**.

They like to eat dead **leaf** matter and need the soil to be moist.

Worms help keep soil healthy as they dig tunnels that let air and water into soil and to the roots of plants.



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Spider

Spiders are able to **live just about anywhere.**

They do well in all types of habitats but they do have to find shelter when the weather gets colder.

Their body colours help them blend in well to their surroundings.

Spiders build webs to **catch** small insects to eat.



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Ladybird

During the summer, ladybirds live in shrubs, branches, and flowers.

When the weather gets colder they find protective hiding places, such as tree stumps or cracks in wood. This then becomes a place to **hibernate** - at the base of a tree, or even under a rock. They crawl under leaves to protect themselves from the winter cold.

When hibernating, ladybirds huddle together in order to **keep warm**.



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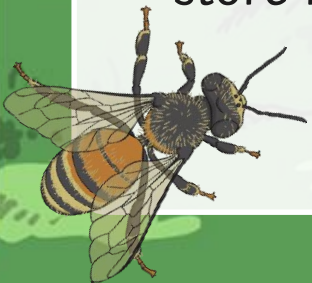
Honey Bee

Honey Bees like to live in areas with lots of **flowering plants**, such as **gardens** and **meadows**.

In their natural habitats, they build nests inside **holes** in trees and under objects to keep them safe from predators.

Humans also build beehives for them to live in - usually wooden boxes.

In colder climates, honey bees store more honey to prepare for the winter.



Snail

Snails can **survive nearly everywhere** and can be found all around the world.

Some **have adapted to survive in the water** and you can even find snails in the desert!

Snails prefer to stay close to rocks and plants to hide from natural predators.



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Woodlouse

Woodlice like **dark damp places** to hide during the day, such as compost heaps and woodland gardens.

They are the only species of crustacean that live on land and not in the water.

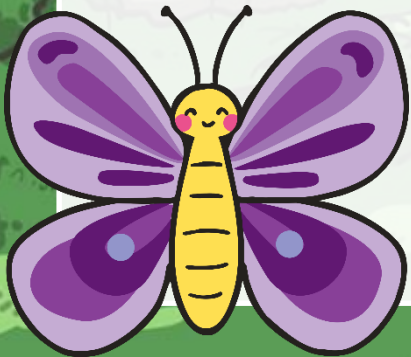
Woodlice can curl up into a ball to protect themselves from predators.



Butterfly

Butterflies can survive in varied habitats around the world. Some live during the day and others are nocturnal.

Some prefer the heat of summer but others can live through Autumn and Winter. In the UK, butterflies tend to prefer grasslands with lots of wild flowers. Each plant will usually be food for a different type of caterpillar (butterfly larvae)

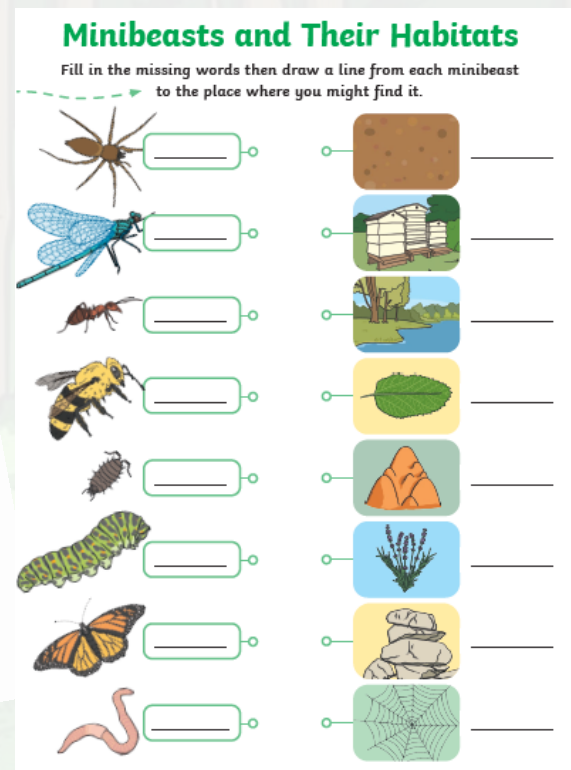




Minibeasts and their habitats

(Worksheet Matching Minibeasts to Habitats)

***Can you pick 3-5 of your favourite minibeasts, draw and colour them in and tell us where they can be found?**



(*without a printer)



Crafts Activity

Can you **make** your own large-scale minibeast through junk modelling and then use them to write descriptions about their characteristics. After watching the clip (below) how many minibeasts can you act out?

Post your videos to class dojo and your class can try guess which minibeast you are?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z44g9j6>



What do minibeasts eat?

They eat all sorts of things. Lots of minibeasts eat plants and many flying insects feed on nectar from flowers. Others, such as spiders, like to eat other minibeasts.

Some minibeasts eat much stranger things – for example, some beetles and ants munch on wood, worms eat dead stuff in the soil, and dung beetles feast on animal poo. That might seem disgusting but these creatures do a great job of recycling and improving the quality of the soil so trees and plants can grow.

What eats minibeasts?

Lots of other creatures feed on minibeasts. These include bats, badgers, hedgehogs, foxes, frogs and toads, and many birds.



Animal Habitats

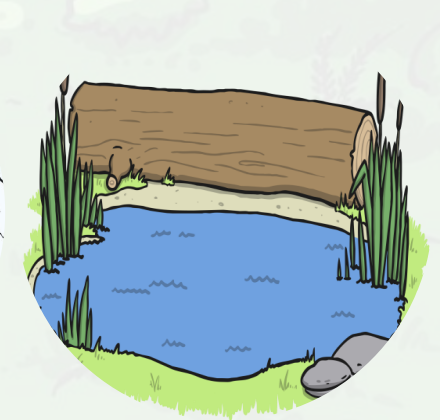
A habitat is a natural environment that an animal lives in. A habitat provides animals with 3 important things:

- food;
- shelter;
- a safe place to raise their young.



Animal Habitats

How have these animals adapted to their environment?



What Do Frogs Need in a Habitat?



predator: an animal that hunts other animals.

- **Food**, such as flies, cockroaches and spiders are caught on the frog's long, sticky tongue. Bigger frogs can eat bigger animals, like mice and birds.
- **Camouflage**, so that they are less visible to predators, such as otters, birds and fish.
- **Water** is needed for drinking and for laying their eggs in.

This means...

... frogs are best suited to living in places where there is water, such as near a pond or lake.

What Do Polar Bears Need in a Habitat?

- **Food**, such as seals, reindeer and fish. They can even use their sense of smell to find seals hiding under the snow.
- **Camouflage**, so that they are harder to spot. Their see-through fur reflects the white of the snow around them and lets them blend in.
- **Sea ice** for hunting on, living on and breeding on.

This means...

... polar bears are best suited to living in the Arctic Circle.



What Do Birds Need in a Habitat?



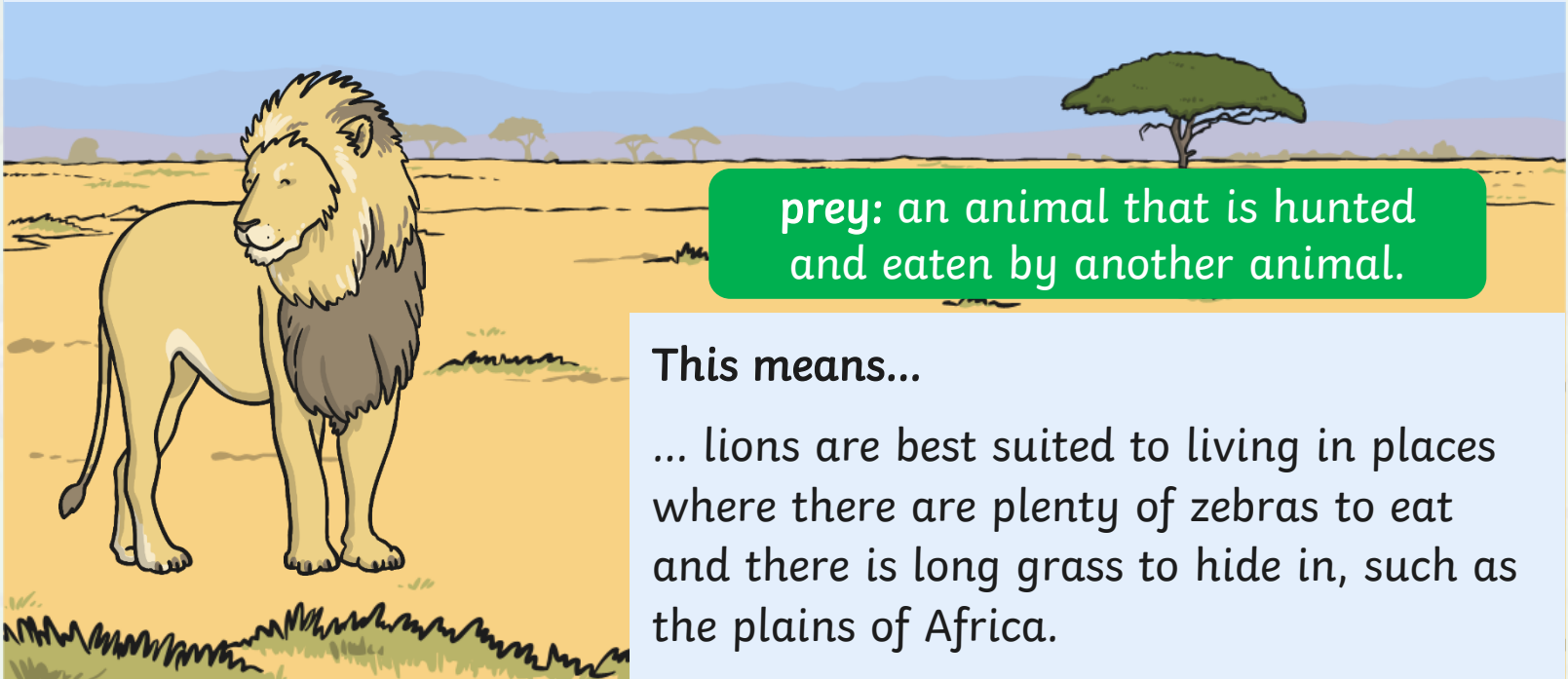
- **Food**, such as berries, worms and small insects.
- **Camouflage**, so that they are less visible to predators.
- **Materials** for nest-building, such as twigs and leaves.

This means...

... birds are best suited to living in places where there are plenty of trees, such as woods, gardens and parks.

What Do Lions Need in a Habitat?

- **Water** to stay hydrated in hot conditions.
- **Prey**, such as antelopes and zebras, to eat.
- **Camouflage**, such as long grass to hide in whilst they hunt their prey.



prey: an animal that is hunted and eaten by another animal.

This means...

... lions are best suited to living in places where there are plenty of zebras to eat and there is long grass to hide in, such as the plains of Africa.

What Do Dogs Need in a Habitat?

- **Water** to stay hydrated in all conditions.
- **Prey**, such as mice, voles, rabbits, and other small animals are caught and eaten by wild dogs. Pet dogs are fed a diet of either dry food or meat by their owners.
- **A den** to feel safe in. In the wild, this is a warm, dry place like a cave but, for a pet dog, this would be a crate or bed.



This means...

... wild dogs are best suited to living in places where there is plenty of water and caves to stay dry in. Pet dogs are best suited to living with their owners in a warm, dry house.

What Do Pandas Need in a Habitat?

- **Food** and **Water**, to stay healthy and hydrated in all conditions. Both come from bamboo, which grows in cool forests. They also eat other plants and even small rodents.
- **Camouflage** to hide in. The panda's white fur helps it hide in the snow in the mountains, while the black patches help it hide in the shade.

This means...

... pandas are best suited to living in places where there is plenty of bamboo and places to hide, such as a forest.

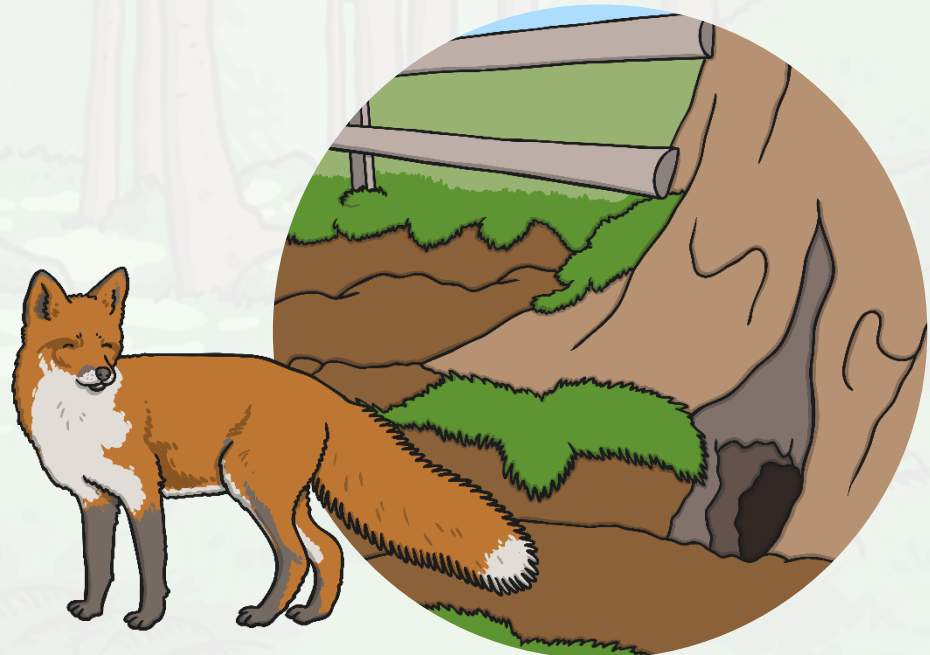


What Do Foxes Need in a Habitat?

- **Water**, to stay hydrated in all conditions.
- **Prey**, such as birds and mice. They are scavengers, which means they will eat almost anything like insects, earthworms, fruit, berries, and food waste left by humans.
- **A den** to live in. This is usually a hole under the ground.

This means...

... foxes are best suited to living in places where there is plenty of water, prey and somewhere for them to make a den, such as a forest.



Animal Habitats

We (humans) are able to change our environments to make them habitable with technology and buildings. We are able to live in most conditions. Some animals cannot do this and have become extinct as a result.





Mini beast Hotel

Making your very own mini beast hotel...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OexxoXo9uFk>



There are many idea's online about how to make a hotel.
would like the children to have a go using natural materials they can
find in the garden and recycled packaging.



Science investigation

Living things and their habitats

This independent exploration for key stage 1 children will support their scientific skills:

Observing

Recording

Asking questions

Exploring and testing

Evaluating

-Use the internet and books to research the different chapters.

Please use the online learning from home booklet found on the school website to explore this project and the activities.

A stylized illustration of a forest scene with tall, thin trees and green foliage, serving as the background for the slide.

Additional activities

Minibeast hunt worksheet

Fine motor skills

Cut and stick minibeasts

Legs or no legs sorting activity



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